

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TS

SUBJ: DHEW/SRS/SFCP - SRS RESEARCH PROJECT ON COMPREHENSIVE
SERVICES UNIT FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF RHEUMATIC HEART
DISEASE PATIENTS

REF: TUNIS 3342

1. RSA REVIEWED REFTTEL RELATIVE TO EMBOFF DISCUSSION WITH DOCTORS
BEN HAMIDA AND BEN ISMAIL REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FOR EQUIPMENT ESTIMAT
ED
AT TD 250,000. AGENCY APPRECIATES FACT THAT REQUESTED EQUIPMENT WILL
BE FOR BOTH REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH ON CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE BUT
IT CANNOT BE INVOLVED IN EQUIPPING CENTER. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED,
BUDGET FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT CAN INCLUDE ONLY SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT TO

CARRY OUT SPECIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT--E.E., REHABILITATION OF RHEUMATIC
HEART DISEASE PATIENTS.

2. PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT AGREED UPON WITH RSA SHOULD BE
US MADE AND SECURED IN TUNISIA. THIS EQUIPMENT CAN ALSO BE MAIN-
TAINED AND SERVICED THROUGH AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS'S REPRESENTATIVES
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THAT COUNTRY. IN SOME INSTANCES WHERE SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE IN A COUNTRY IT WILL BE PURCHASED IN THE US BY RSA AND SENT TO THE PROJECT. THIS ASSUMES THAT IT WILL CLEAR TUNISIAN CUSTOMS AND OTHER OFFICIAL IMPORT AGENCIES WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME UPON ARRIVAL. IN CHECKING WITH US CONSULTANTS ON SPECIFIC NEEDS FOR SUBJECT RESEARCH EQUIPMENT RSA RESPONSE IS THAT REQUEST IS MUCH TOO HIGH--REPEAT, MUCH TO HIGH.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, RSA HAS LIMITED AMOUNT OF TD AND WITH END OF FISCAL YEAR (JUNE 30) APPROACHING THIS MEANS THAT PROJECTED OVERALL RESEARCH BUDGET WILL NOT BE OBLIGATED. THERE CANNOT BE ANY ASSURANCE THAT SAME AMOUNT, OR ANY TD, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROJECT IN 1976. RSA HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT REASONABLE REVISED BUDGET WOULD BE PRESENTED THIS YEAR SO THAT OBLIGATION TO PROJECT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE BY END OF FY.

4. RSA WILL BE WILLING TO HAVE CARDIOVASCULAR CONSULTANT(S) COME TO TUNISIA TO ASSIST IN WORKING OUT SPECIFIC DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RESEARCH ITEMS AS REQUIRED FOR R AND D PROJECT FOR RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE, IF DRS. BEN HAMIDA AND BEN ISMAIL BELIEVE THIS TO BE HELPFUL. RSA HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH IN THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT IN TUNISIA FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS AND REGRETS, REPEAT, REGRETS CANNOT APPROVE BUDGET ITEMS THAT ARE UNREASONABLY HIGH OR DO NOT RELATE DIRECTLY TO SUBJECT RESEARCH. RSA HOPES DRS. BEN HAMIDA AND BEN ISMAIL WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND RSA POSITION AS DISCUSSED ON EARLIER OCCASIONS AND WILL SUBMIT REVISED BUDGET VERY EARLY IN FY 1976 SO THAT IF TD ARE AVAILABLE TO RSA IT CAN MAKE EARLY OBLIGATION FOR THIS PROJECT.

5. APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONVEYING SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO DRS. BEN HAMIDA AND BEN ISMAIL.
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